

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1902**

Jan 17, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam Leader:

I write today to urgently alert the leaders of the U.S. Congress that a government shutdown could limit funding to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and potentially threaten Mainers in need of home heating during a bitterly cold period of winter.

As you know, LIHEAP is a critical component of our nation's safety net and is designed to help elderly, low income, disabled, and rural Americans keep themselves and their families warm.

Maine is experiencing an exceptionally cold winter. In late December and January, record low temperatures and multiple feet of snow swept across the state, prompting the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Governor of Maine to grant an Hour of Service waiver to allow home heating oil companies to deliver heat to Maine families around the clock. Maine winters can be harsh, but Mainers are resilient. However, any loss of LIHEAP support is unacceptable.

As Maine prepares for another snow storm this week, it is critical that LIHEAP function at full capacity. It would be a failure of leadership if the U.S. government were to shut down and potentially threaten Mainers in need of heating during our coldest winter months.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you to keep the U.S. government open.

Sincerely,



Bruce Poliquin  
Maine's 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman